

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, May 11, 1884, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Scott Circle, 1500 Rhode Island Avenue, (Washington, D. C.) May 11th, 1884. My dear Mrs. Bell,

I wonder where this will find you. I have no idea even as I write, what city I shall put on the envelope. I hope at all events my letter will find both you and Mr. Bell well and enjoying your trip immensely. I am so sorry you did not see the Mammoth Cave, I have heard so much of it and all sounded very interesting. Woman like, I wonder what Mr. Bell's "reason" was for not going there, not that you were not well, I hope.

You will be glad to hear that our little one is doing nicely. I have had her in my lap two or three times now, and Dr. Johnston says she is well enough to be partly dressed, but he fears her making too much exertion, or taking cold, and we are well content to see her so bright and happy again, and do not care to hurry her. If you like to send her a picture card by post, she would appreciate the remembrance greatly, she insists on having two or three notes from the post every day, and I do not like having to chest her. We gave her, again, a valentine Mr. Bell sent her once, and she was delighted and learned his verses by heart, and then sent it away to some little friend, of course we had to put it into the fire really.

Elsie's party was postponed until yesterday owing to the rain. Yesterday was a beautiful day, bright and sunny, the heat relieved by a fresh breeze. About twenty children come and seemed 2 to enjoy themselves extremely and Maurice seemed to like watching them from his tent but I fear he is very tired today, he looked so wretchedly. Mamma says however that he bore his father and mother's visit better than she had expected.

Little Grace was baptized Friday, poor little girl, she had to wait too long so that her part in the ceremony was not a silent one. As for the little sister and cousin their first visit to the

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church had anything but a solemnizing effect on them. Gypsey in Papa's arms expressed her wonder at the strange place very audibly and Helen escaped from her mother's arms up the chancel steps and attempted to make love to Dr. Paret in the middle of the prayer. The only other incidents I can think of to tell you are that I pitched Elsie out of the village cart the other day, fortunately without hurting her, and that Alec is still working on his paper but says that it goes to the printers hands tomorrow. I hope so. I have not seen Mary since you left, but will try and go out tomorrow, they are afraid to come here.

With love to Mr. Bell and yourself,

Affectionately, Mabel.